

Seeing Insects in a Whole New Light

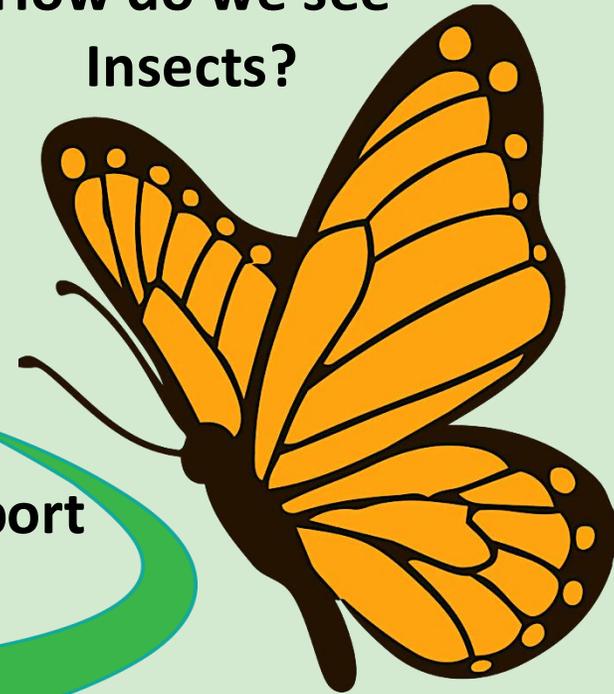
Our Relationship with Insects and the Plants
they Pollinate



Our Path of Learning Today

**Telling this story from
the Indigenous
perspective**

**How do we see
Insects?**



How do we see Plants?



**How can we support
pollinators?**



The Indigenous Perspective?

- Before we can gain an appreciation of Insects and the Plants they pollinate through an Indigenous perspective
 - We first need to gain an appreciation and understanding of Indigenous Peoples
 - Albeit this will be a really brief introduction



Indigenous Peoples of Where?



Inuit



Métis

First Nation

- A term used to refer to the original peoples of North America
 - Today, it is the term used most widely in Canadian culture to describe the original peoples of North America

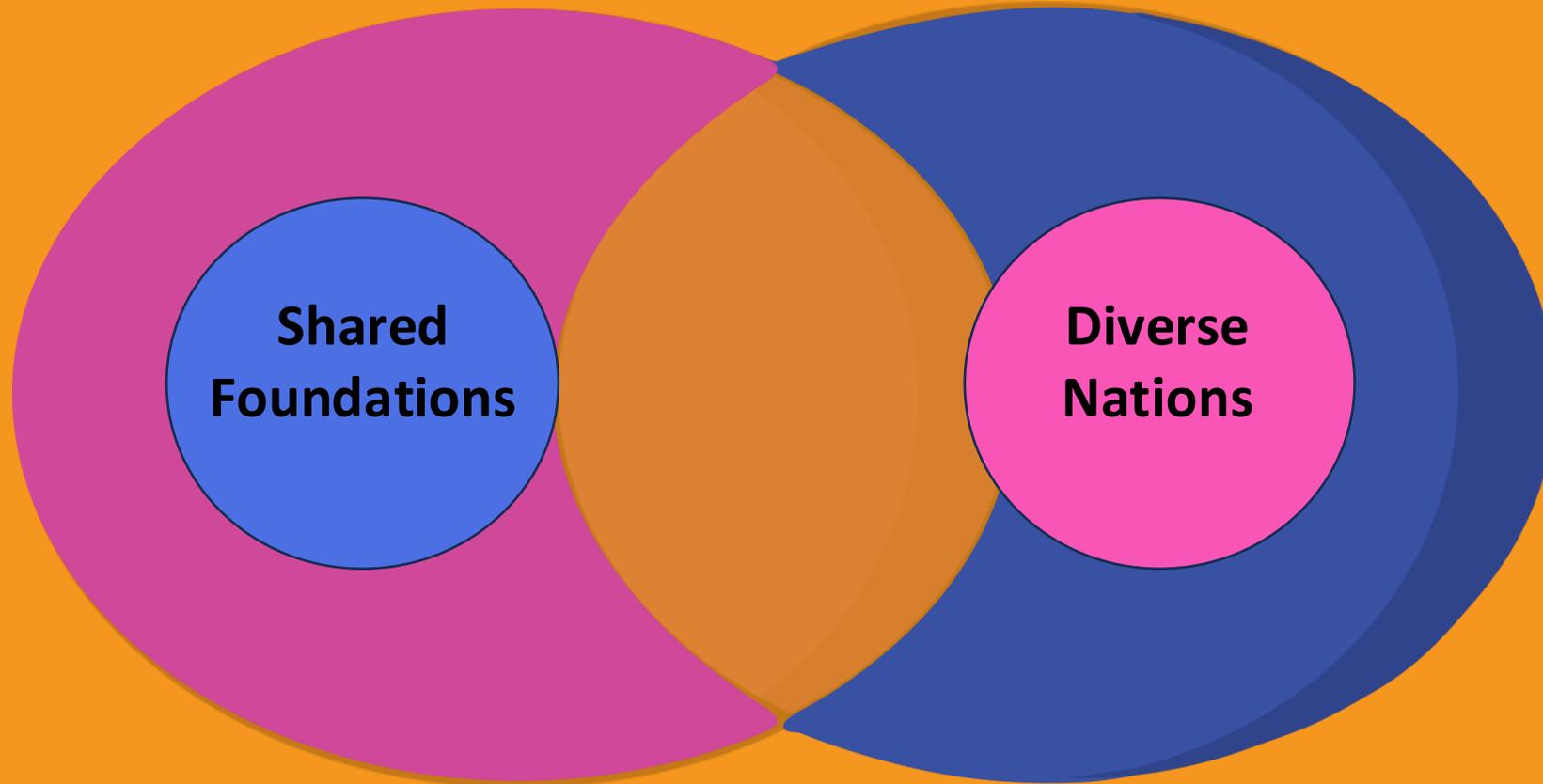
What does the term Indigenous mean?

Indigenous Peoples of North America

- However, keep in mind that all Indigenous Peoples are not all the same!
- They are often talked about and lumped together in this broad-brush stroke of 'Indigenous.'
- But just as the climate, geography, ecosystems, and non-human beings of North America are so diverse, so too are the Indigenous Peoples of North America

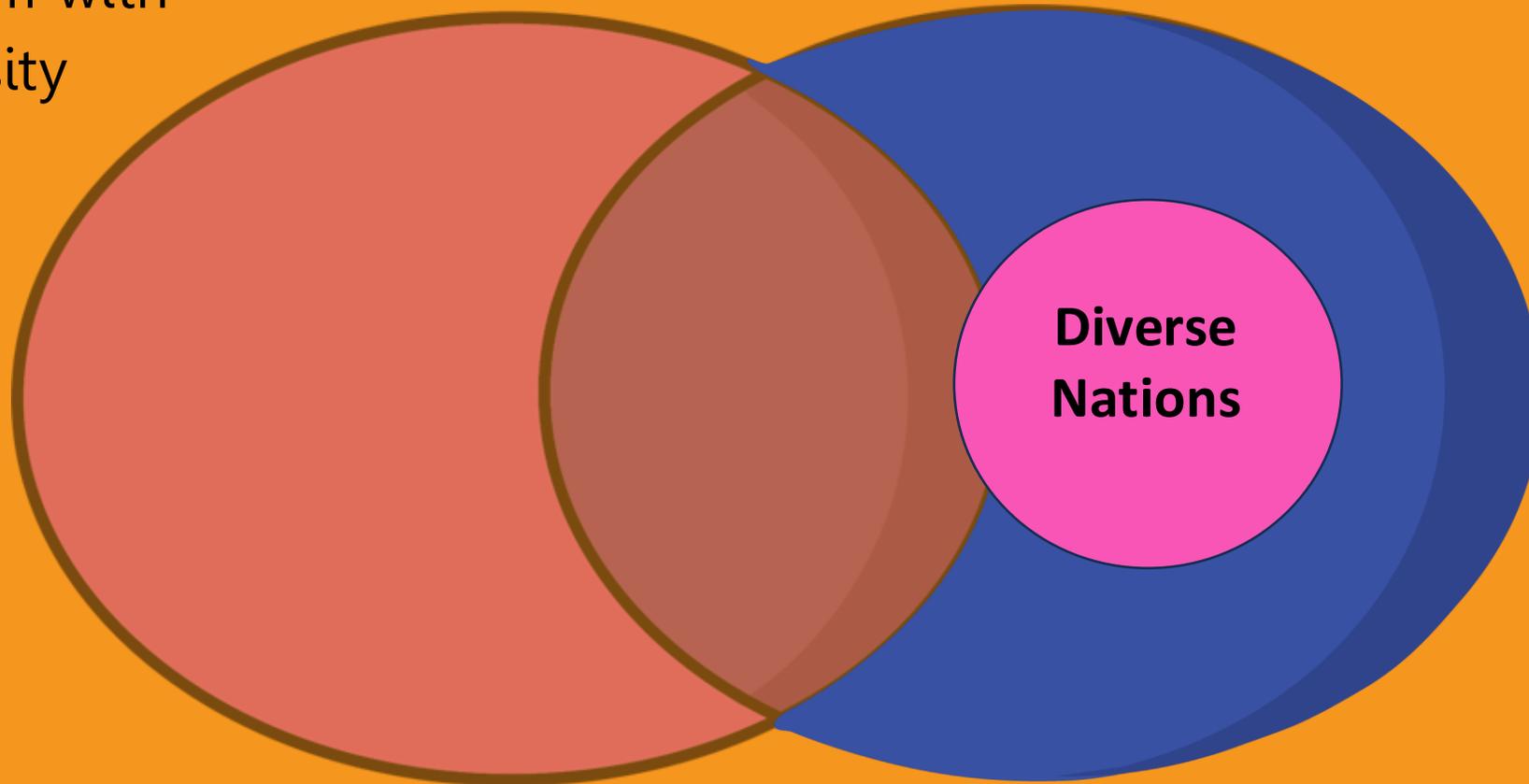


Indigenous Peoples Of North America Have



Indigenous Peoples Of North America Have

- Starting off with the diversity



A Metaphor for Diversity



About Me!

Aanii Kina Wiya Brad Howie nindizhinikaaz
Hello Everyone I'm Brad Howie

Nbissing ndbendaagoz
Nipissing First Nation is my community



Manoomin Learning



****An Important Statement****



Although I work my absolute hardest to teach about Indigenous Peoples, perspectives, ways of knowing, and science with the utmost respect and authenticity, it is important to note that **I don't speak for all Indigenous Peoples**

**I don't speak for all First Nations
People**

**I don't speak for all Anishinaabe
Peoples**

****An Important Statement****

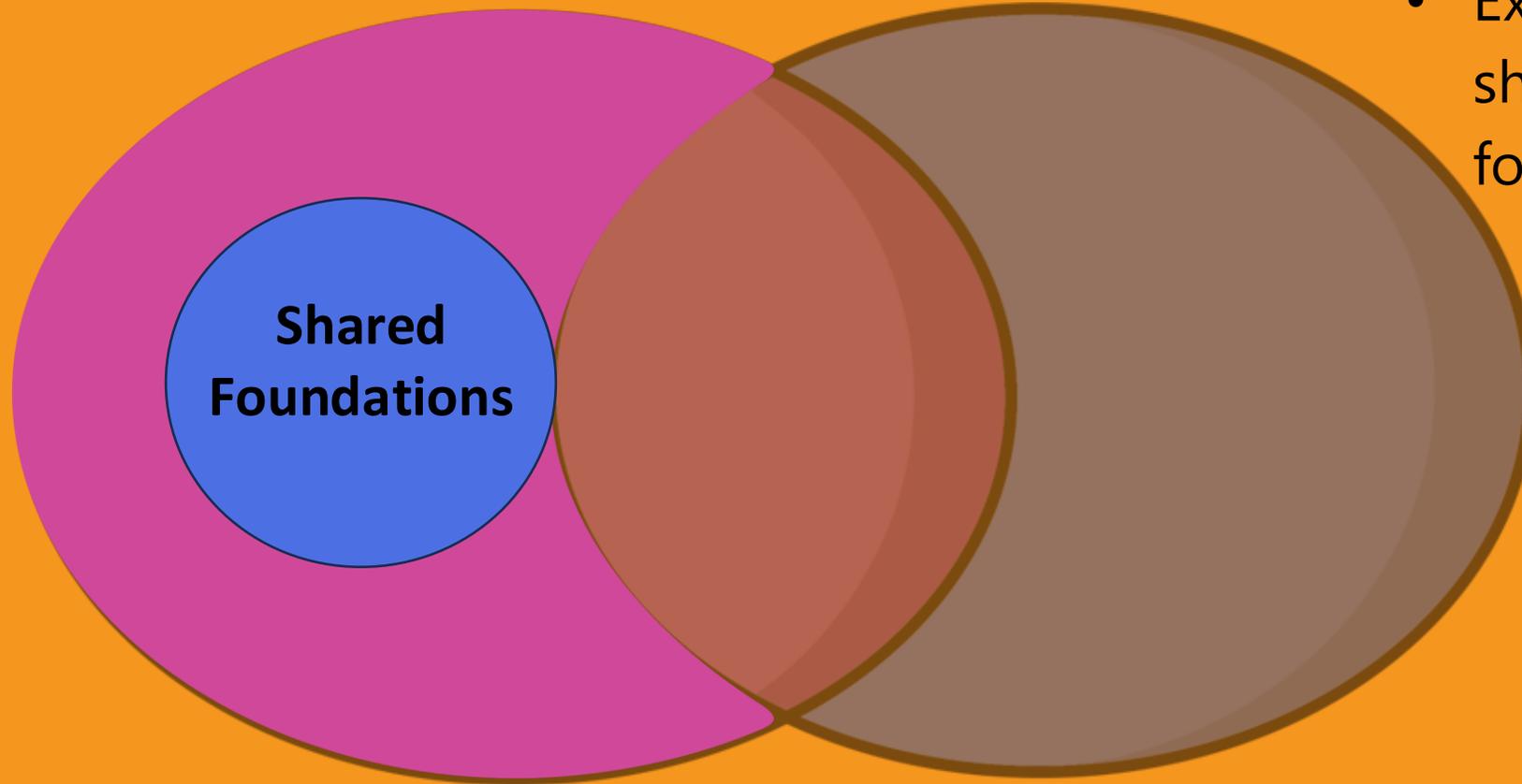


I can only speak with **Debwewin** 'truth'

We all know what truth means in
English

But in Anishinaabemowin (the language of the Anishinaabe people), truth means "To speak only to the extent, we have lived or experienced."

Indigenous Peoples Of North America Have

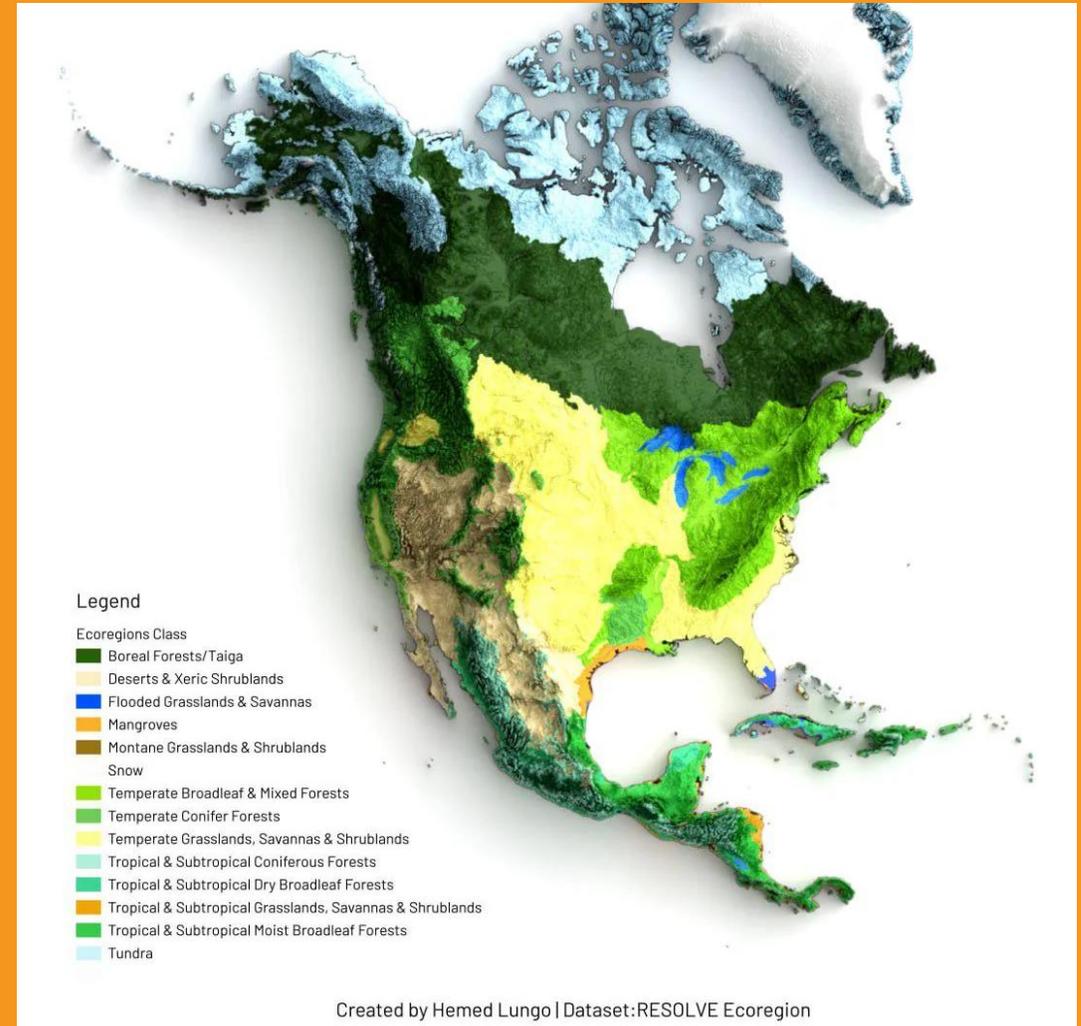


- Explore some shared foundations

Unique Geography EQUALS Unique Nations

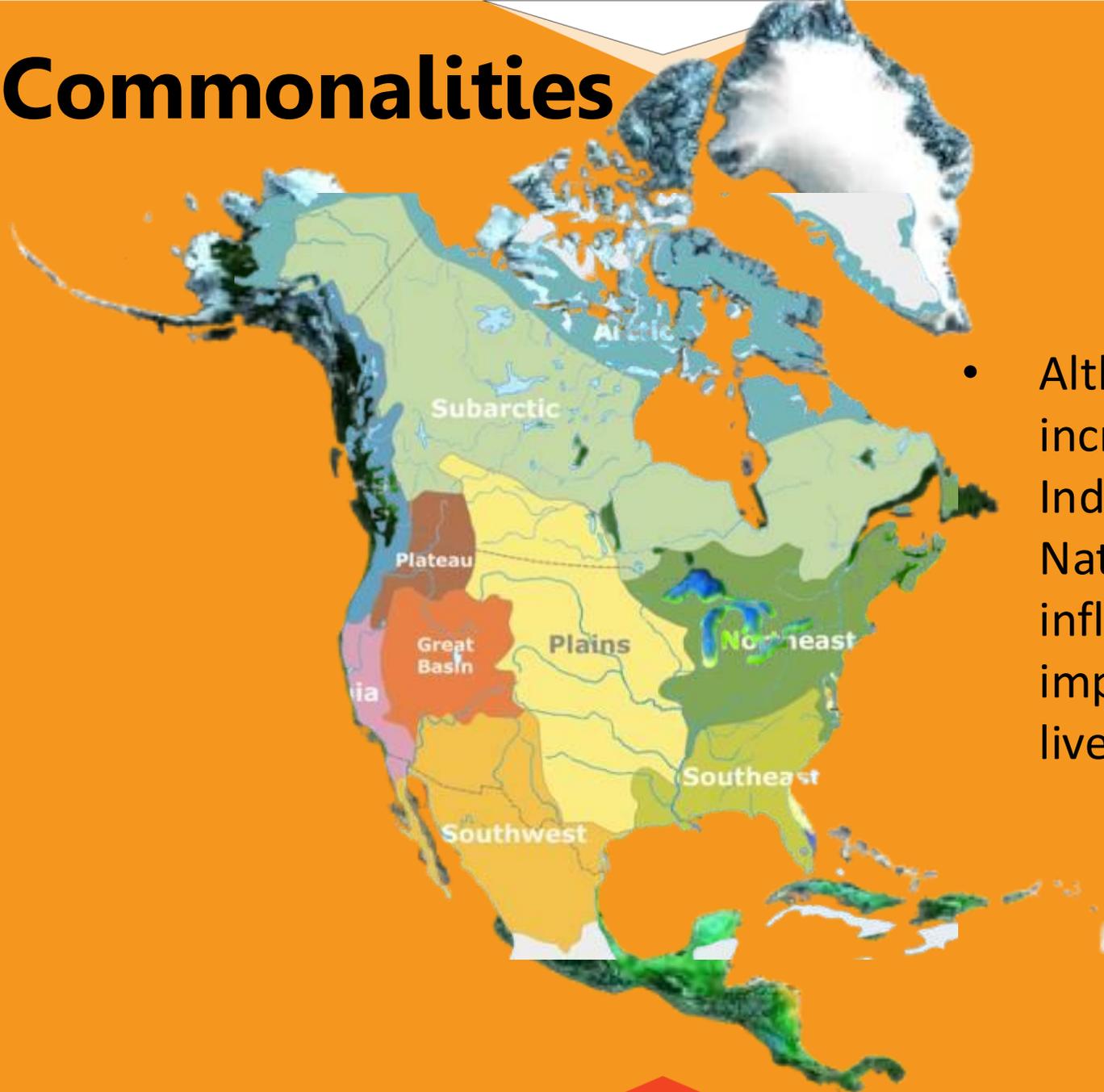


Major Classes of Indigenous People



North American Biomes

Shared Commonalities



- Although there is an incredible diversity of Indigenous cultures and Nations, they are all influenced, informed, and impacted by the land they live on

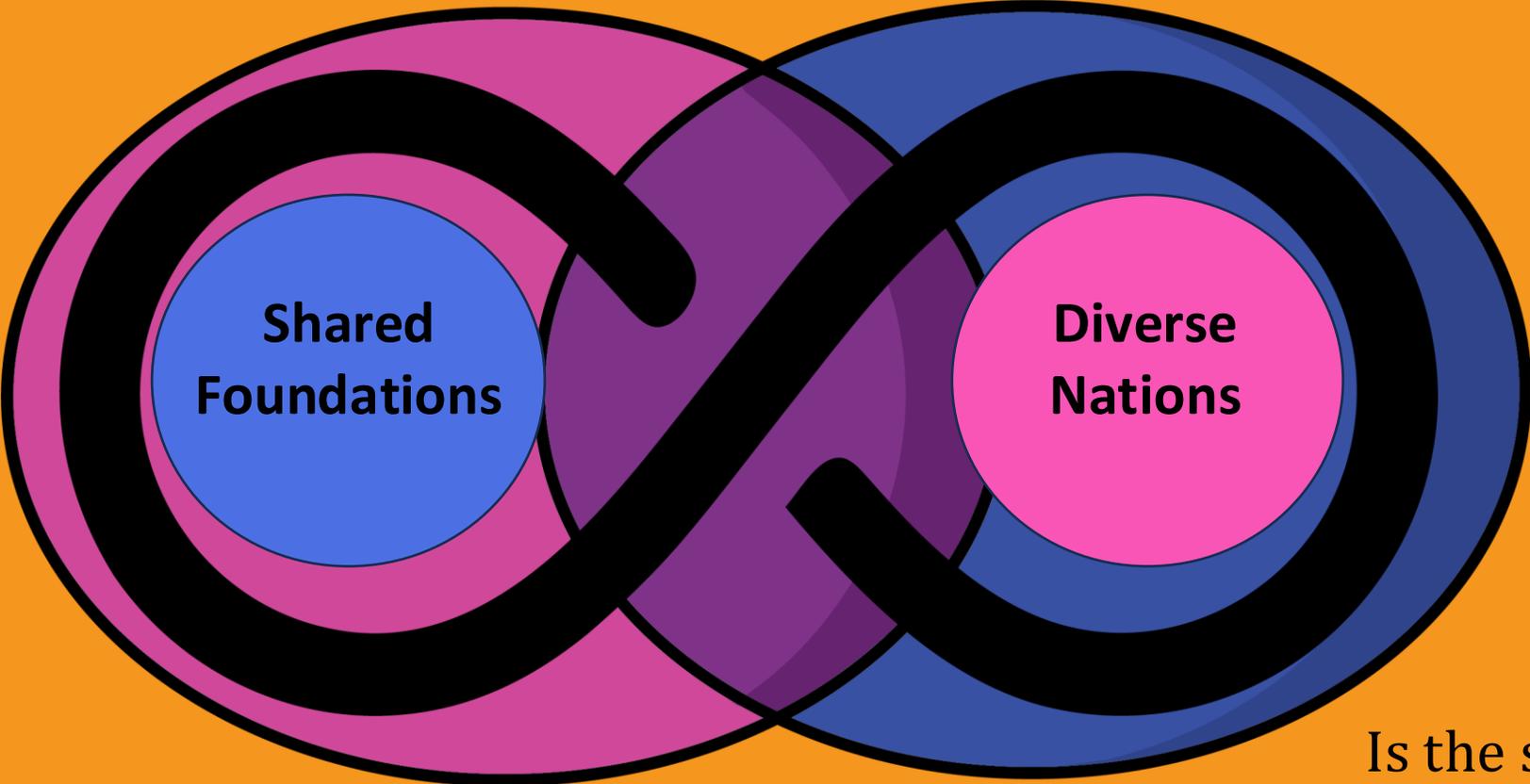
Not own

Another Exapme

- One Mother (one shared land)
- Shared culture (shared ecological niche and ancestral origin)
- Three separate communities
- Three separate individuals



A Beautiful Story Being Told



What makes
Indigenous Peoples
so diverse from one
another

The land

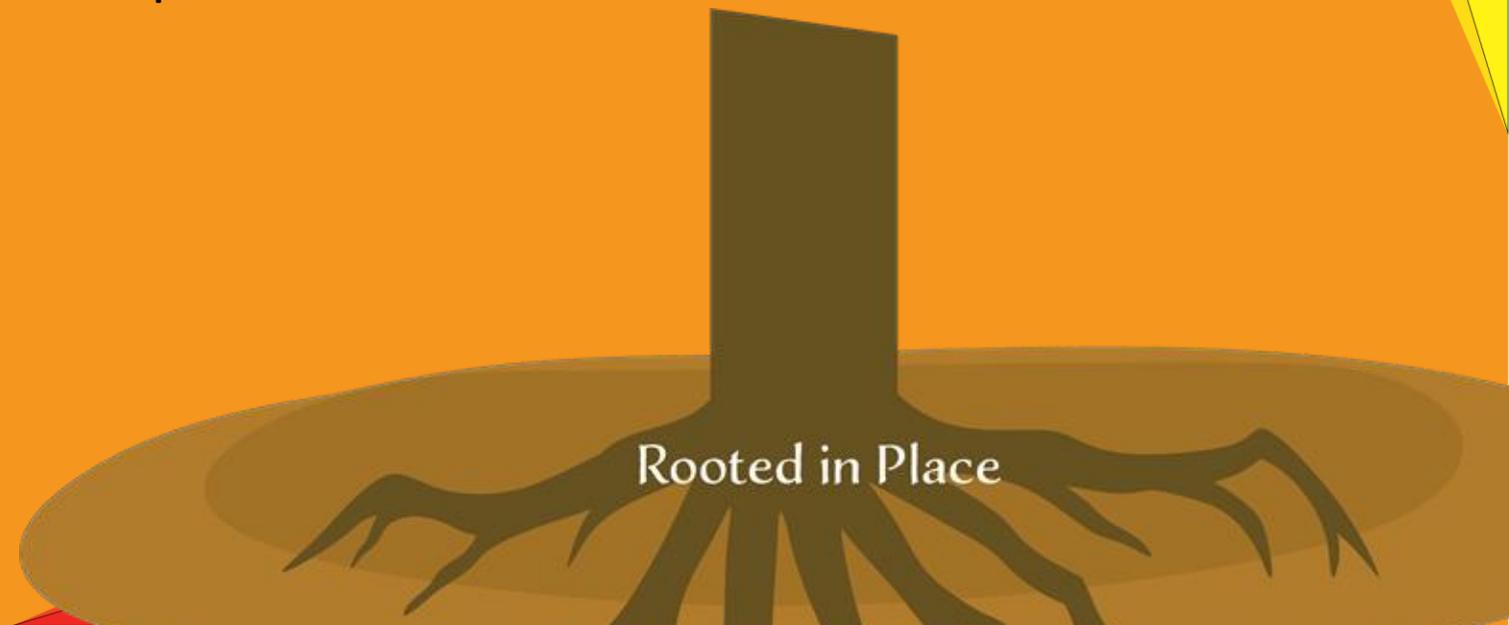
Is the same thing
that gives them
shared foundations

The Story Continuous

- Indigenous people have always been here, and we will always be here
- We are not a people of the past, we are a **people with a past** in North America, are present here today, and will continue to advocate for our rights, our Mother's rights, and the rights of all the non-human beings into the future

The Indigenous Perspective

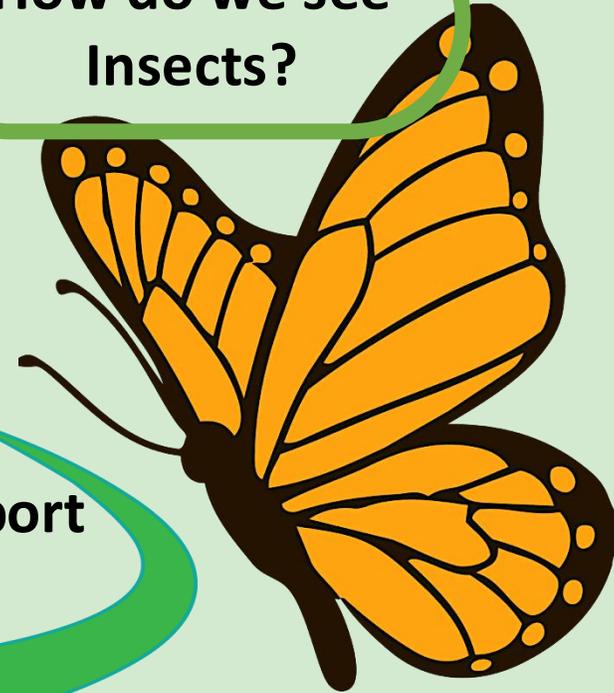
- The Indigenous perspective comes from the land herself, and all the beings of the land
 - All of which inform, influence, and impact the breadth, depth, and lens through which Indigenous Peoples view the world through



Our Path of Learning Today

Telling this story from the
Indigenous Anishinaabe
perspective

How do we see
Insects?



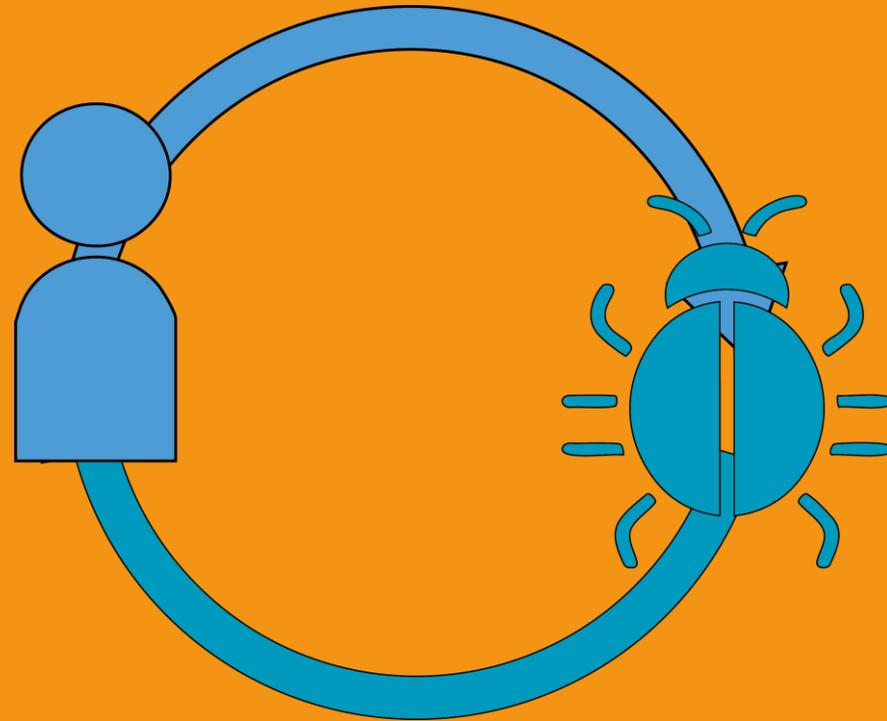
How do we see Plants?



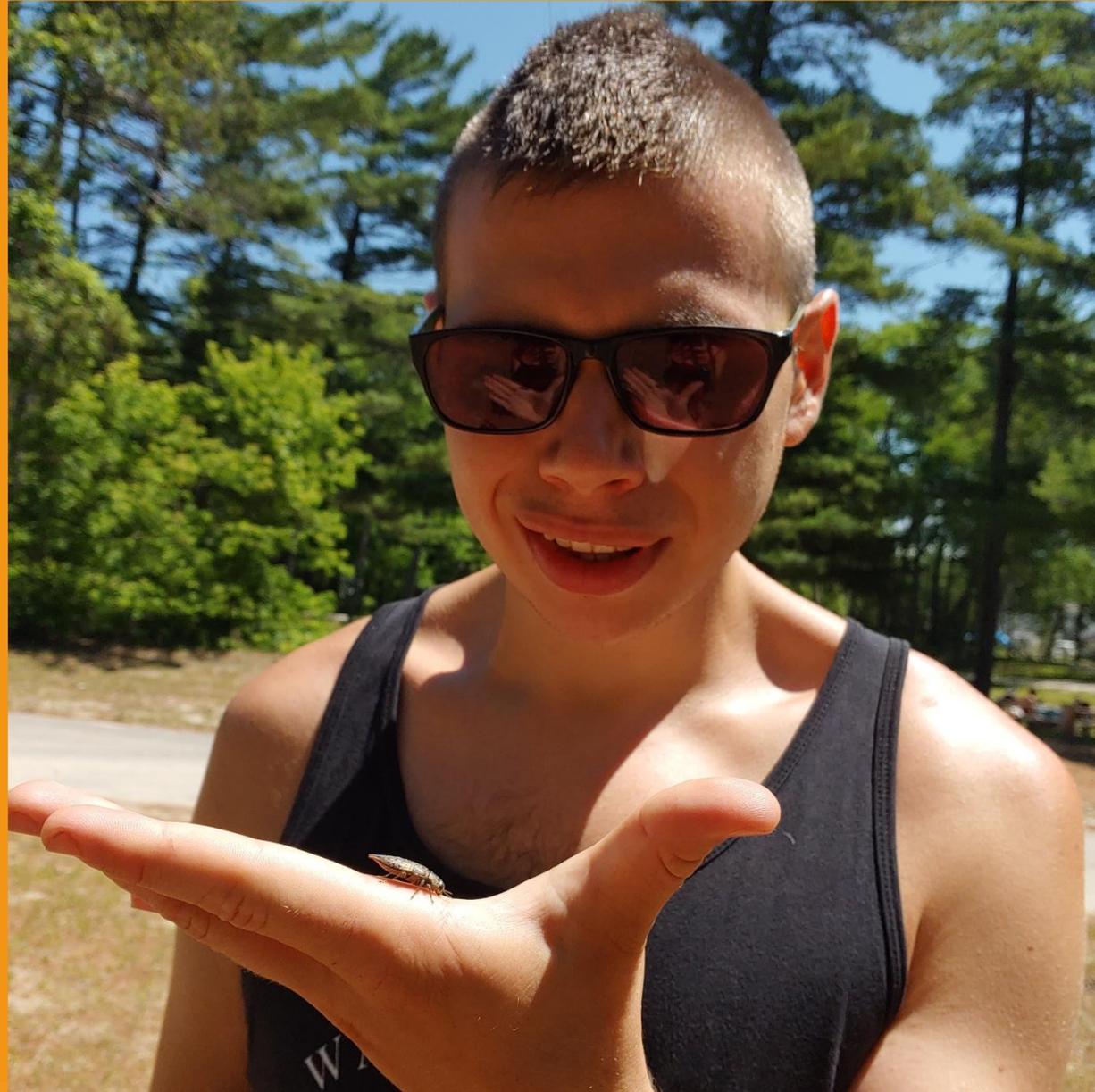
How can we support
pollinators?



Our Relationship with Insects



How do you see Insects?



Insects

Manidoosh

'Little Spirit'

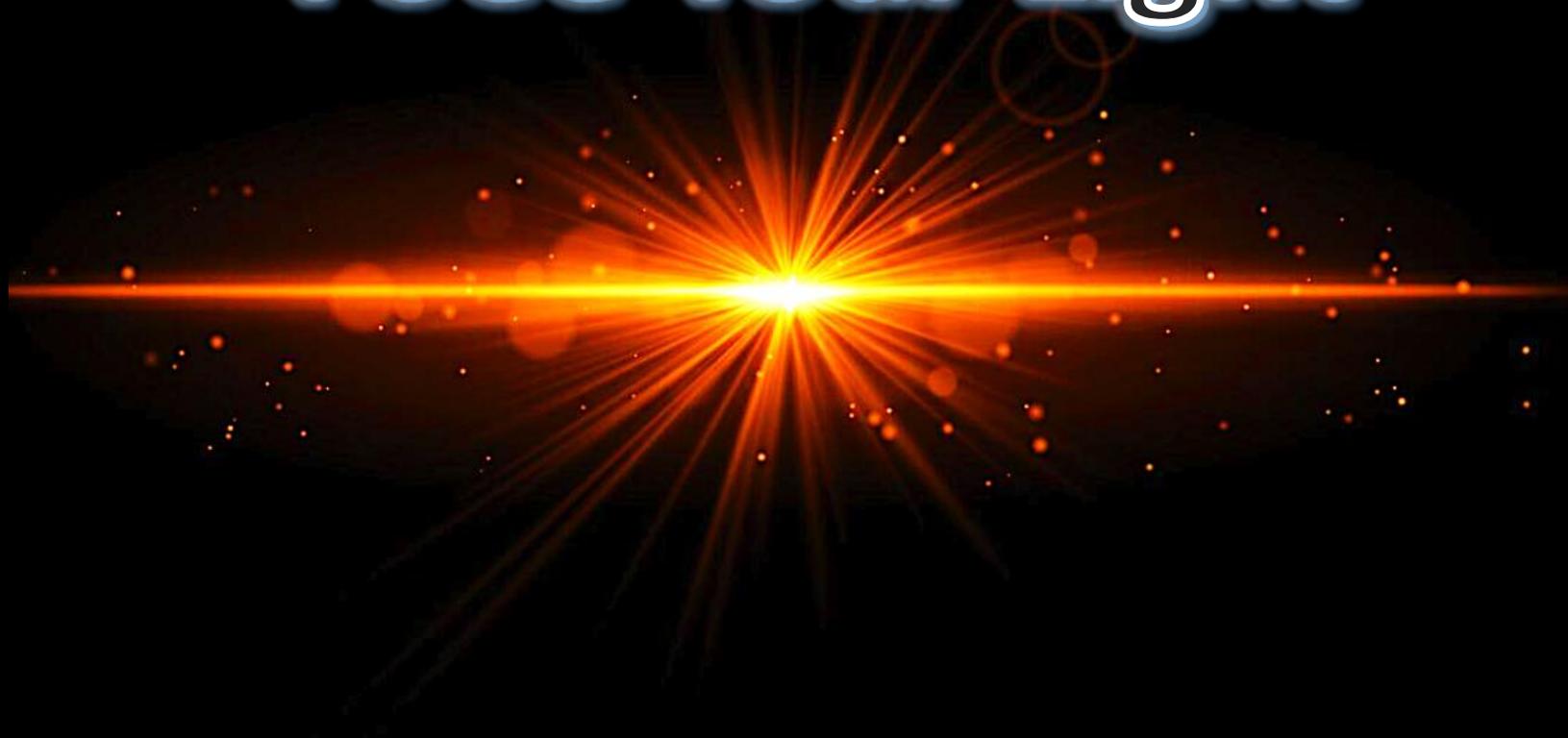


'Aanii'

'Hello'



I See Your Light







Insects see our light,
but do we see
theirs?

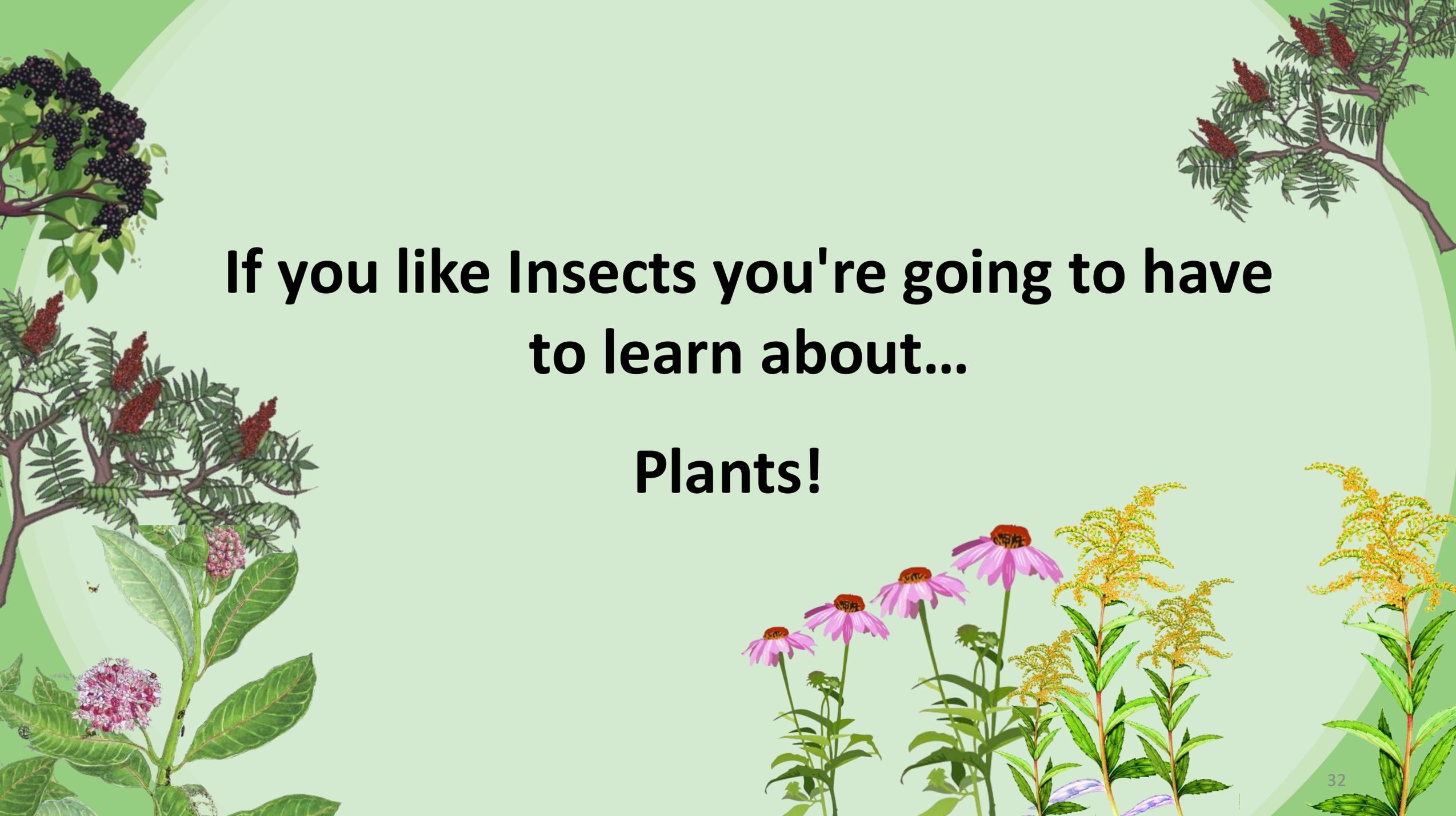


Perception of Insects

I wonder if it is more of a cultural perception that influences how we see insects?



How do you see Insects?



**If you like Insects you're going to have
to learn about...**

Plants!

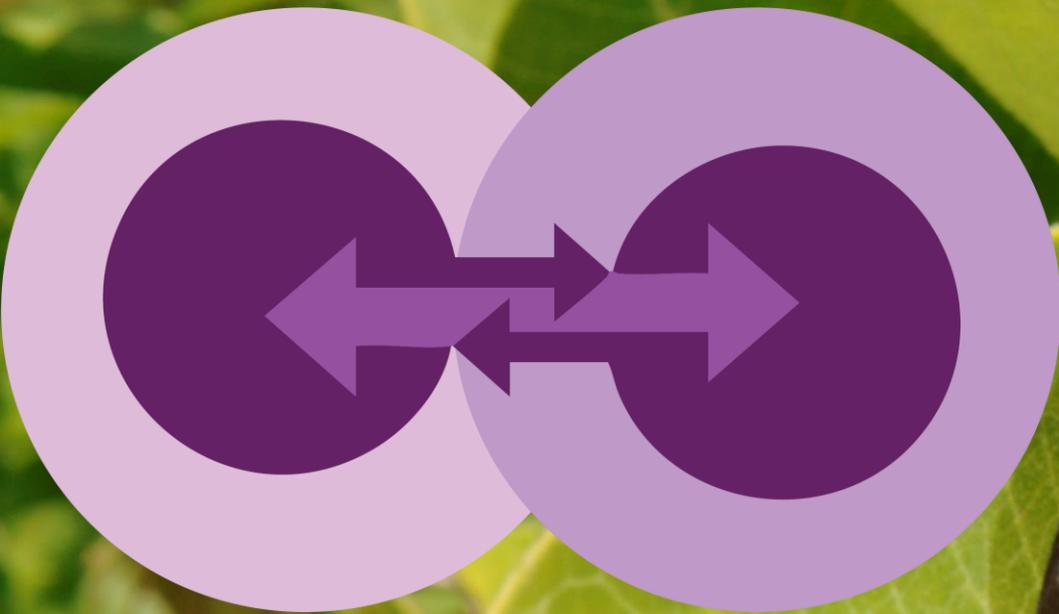


Milkweed Beetle

MilkWEED?



Milkweed and the Monarch

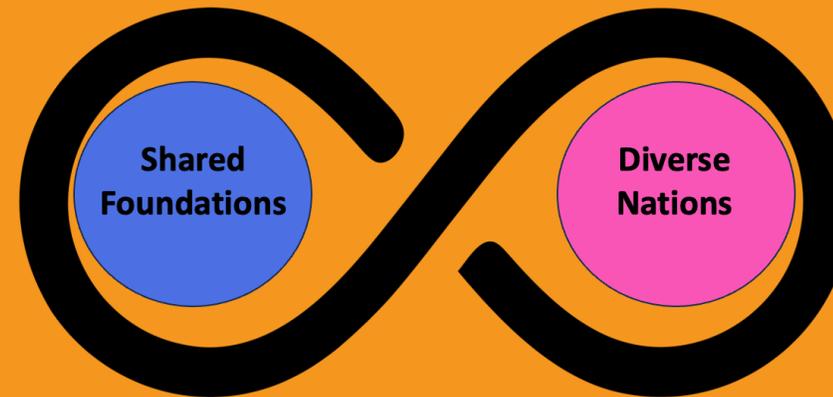


Deep Relationship between Insects and Plants

Reciprocal



- Reciprocity is another common cultural teaching found in Indigenous Nations all across North America



- Reciprocal relationships are not only found between Insects and Plants but are abundant within every part of the natural world

What does Our Relationship have to do
with it?



What does OUR Relationship have to do with it?



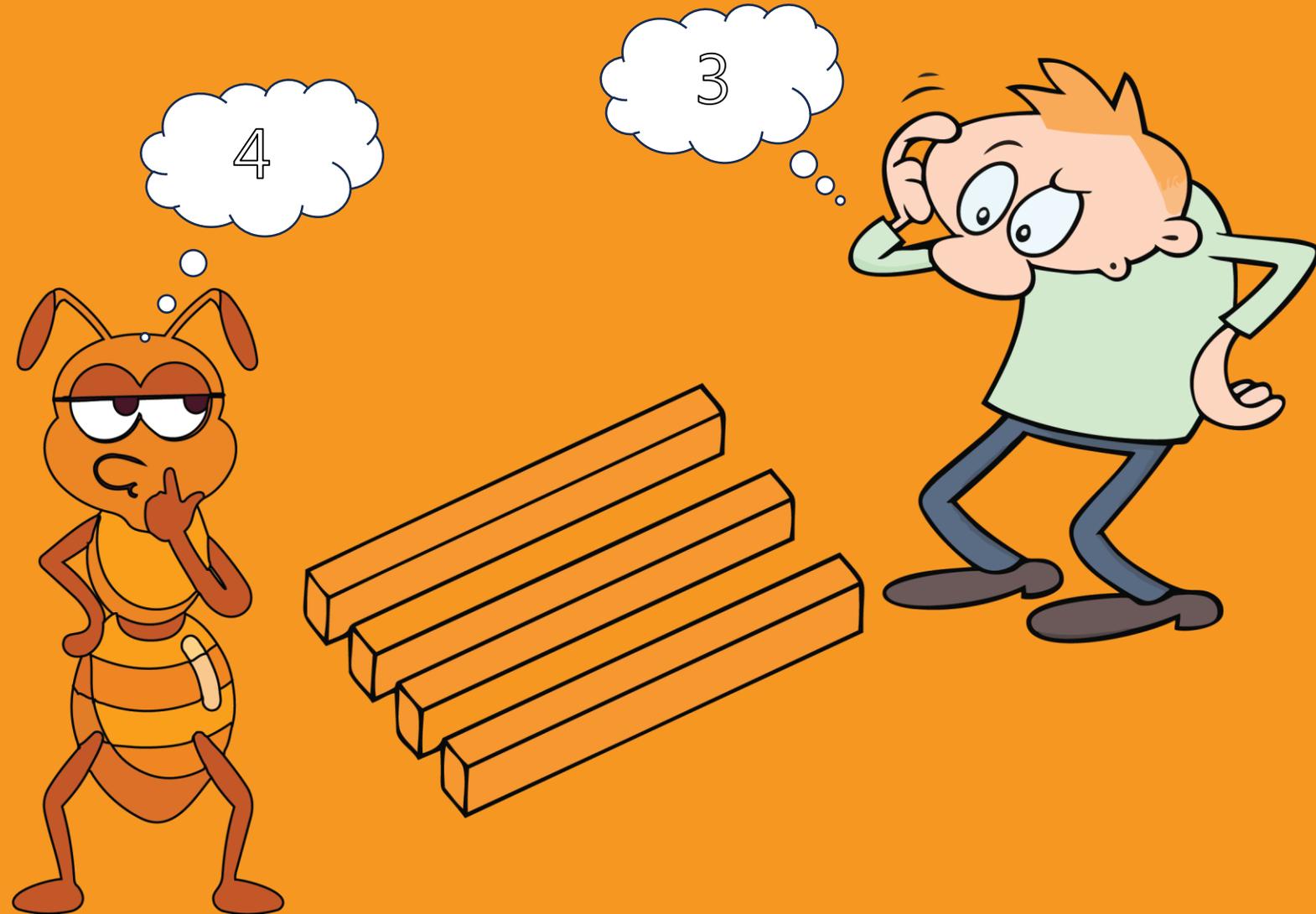
Perception of Weeds

I wonder if it is more of
a cultural perception
that influences how we
see certain plants
(weeds)



Perception

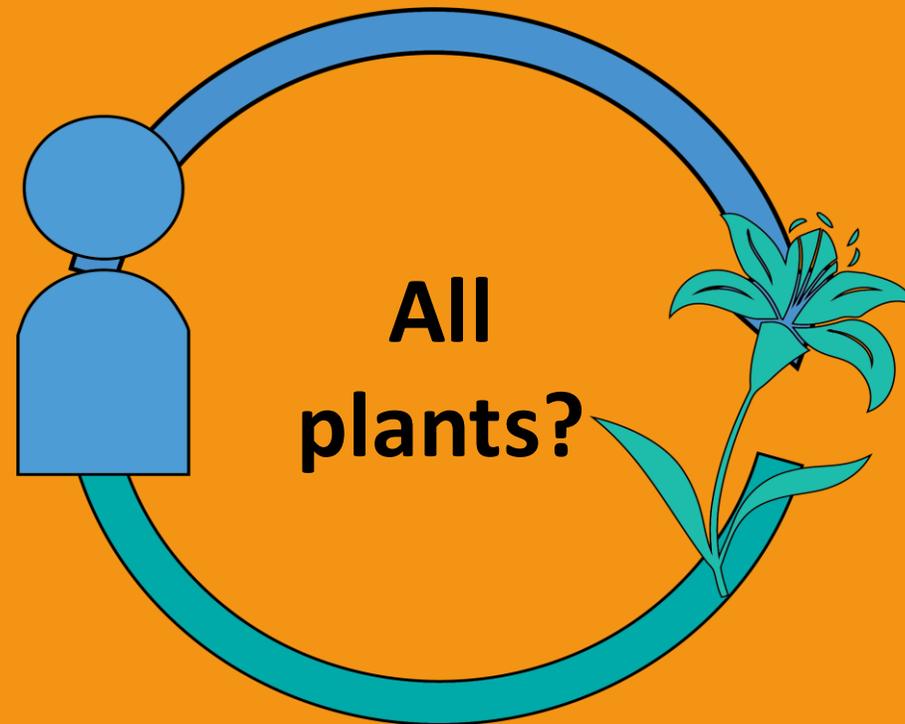
- When we reframe our perspective our relationship changes
- So much of our interactions with the environment has to do with our relationships and our perspectives of beings in the environment



Our Relationship with the Plants that Insects Pollinate

Good plants?

Bad plants?



How do you see Weeds?



How do you see all Plants?

How do Indigenous Peoples see

Plants?

Weeds?

Insects?

Every non-human
being?

The First Treaty



AOLP

Unity and equality



What can we do to help Pollinators?



Disease and Pests

Climate Change

Habitat Loss

Honey Bee's

Threats to Native Species

Invasive species

Extreme Weather

Our Relationship?

Pesticides



What can we do to help Pollinators?





Mimicking Creators Garden
By creating a
commUNITY garden

What is a 'CommUNITY' Garden?

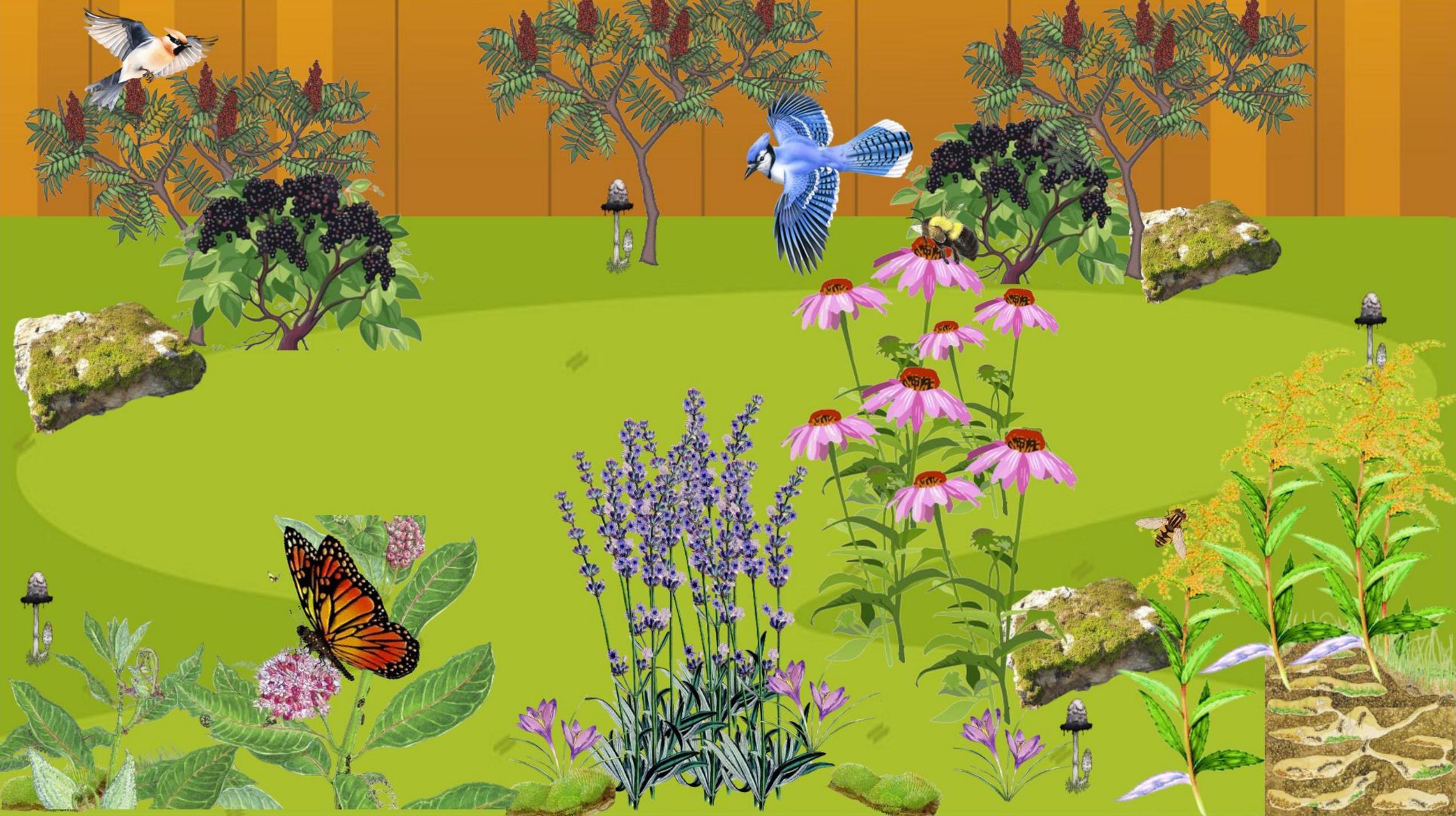
- A Nursery for Diversity
 - A home for all beings
- Mimics Creators Gitigan
 - 'Hacking' into the local flora and fauna
 - Interconnected, strong community=strong relationships



Reciprocal Relationships

A vibrant, sunlit scene of a well-maintained green lawn. The lawn is the central focus, surrounded by dense, healthy green shrubs and bushes. In the background, there are several tall, leafy trees and a building with a covered walkway. The lighting is bright and warm, suggesting a sunny day, with a slight lens flare effect in the upper right corner.

What is Not a Community Garden?





Introducing....

Our Community Partners!!!

Community Partner 1: Plants



Giiziso-Mashkikii
Canada goldenrod
(*Solidago canadensis*)



Mooshkowaawis
Bee balm
(*Monarda didyma*)



(*Echinacea purpurea* or
Echinacea pallida)

An Example of the Community in the CommUNITY Garden



Giiziso-Mashkikii
Canada goldenrod
(*Solidago canadensis*)

The Benefits of Using Native Plants

- Throughout the Pollinator Partnership program you will be learning all about the benefits of native plants
- But from that perspective I am sharing today, plants (and native plants especially) are the start of **CommUNITY** gardens
 - They are the common thread and the base of reciprocity in our ecosystems and our community gardens



Ninwanzh
Common Milkweed
(*Asclepias syriaca*)

The Benefits of Using Native Plants

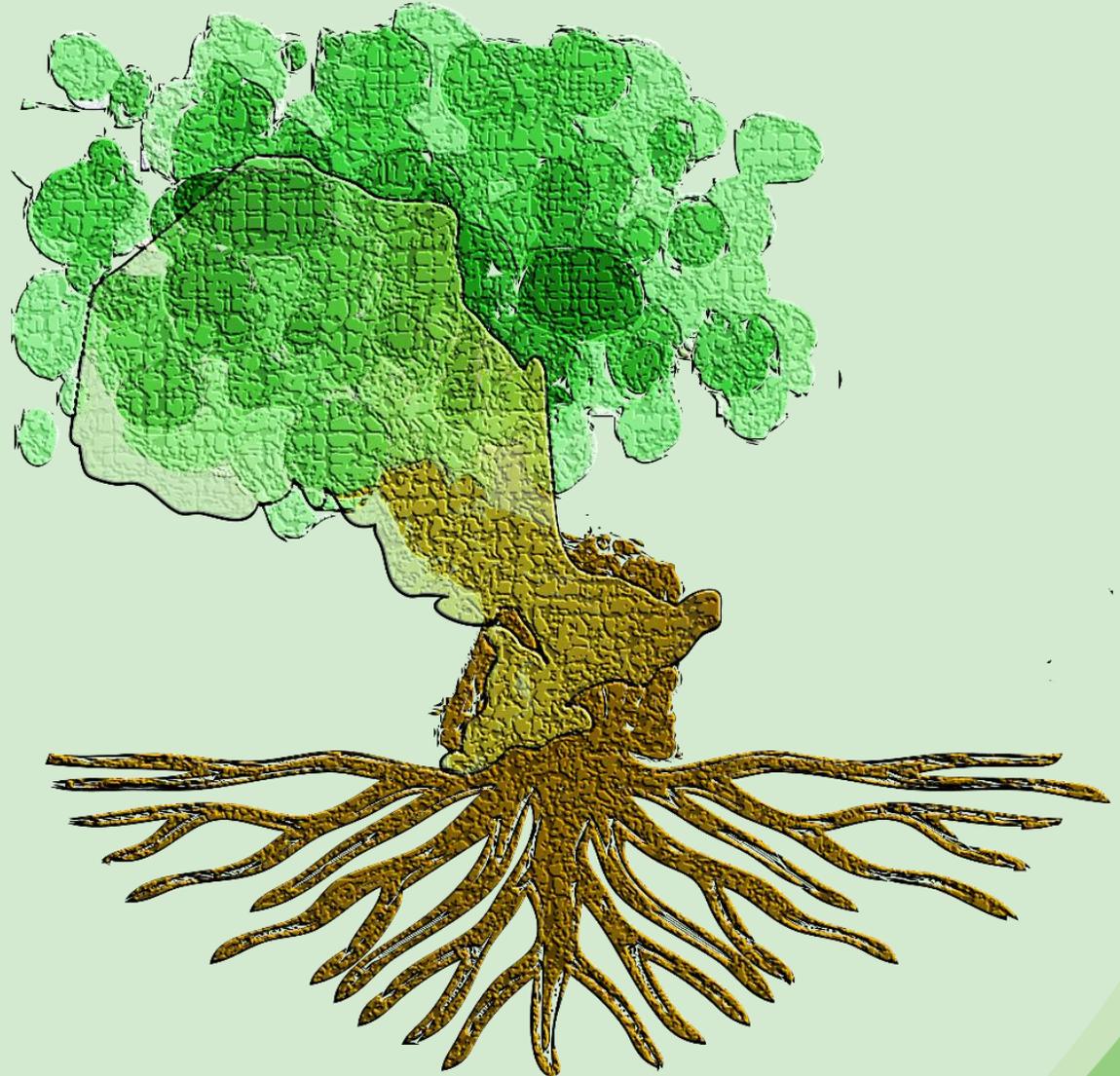
- Locally adapted
 - Will do well with our local climate
 - Grow better in our Southern Ontario soil
 - Don't need to be winterized*
- Supports (creates) **biodiversity!**
 - Have natural relationships that have existed for thousands of years
 - Provide food for insects and those insects are food for birds
 - Provide berries from shrubs for birds to snack on



Ninwanzh
Common Milkweed
(*Asclepias syriaca*)

What is 'Native' to your Area?

- When determining what a 'native' species is to your area, it is important to consider location and ecosystem
 - For example, a plant native to **Ontario** may not be native to **Toronto**.
 - A plant native to a wetland might not be native to a forest



The Benefits of Using 'Native' Plants

- What does a 'native' really mean?



A Note on Native (Really a Note on Science)

- What do corn, beans, and squash, all have in common?
 - They are all enigmas to environmental scientists, albeit most likely without realization.
 - It all has to do with how we define a 'native species', an Indigenous species, in the Northeastern Woodlands or anywhere else in North America.



A Note on Native (Really a Note on Science)

- In the 'New World' they are defined as "those species that were growing prior to colonization or contact by Europeans"
- But then by definition this means that corn, beans, and squash, are all species native to the Northeastern Woodlands; yet none of these species originated here



A Note on Native, Really a Note on Science



- What about this awesome little guy?

A New Definition for a Native Species

- A unique being (species) with their (it's) own role and responsibility within a broader community (ecosystem), that is locally adapted to live within a unique geographical area, having built relationships with other beings through evolution over a long-time span.



Community Partner 2: Insects



Oojii
Hover fly species
(*Siphus sp*)



Memengwaa
Monarch
(*Danaus plexippus*)



Hummingbird Clearwing
(*Hemaris thysbe*)



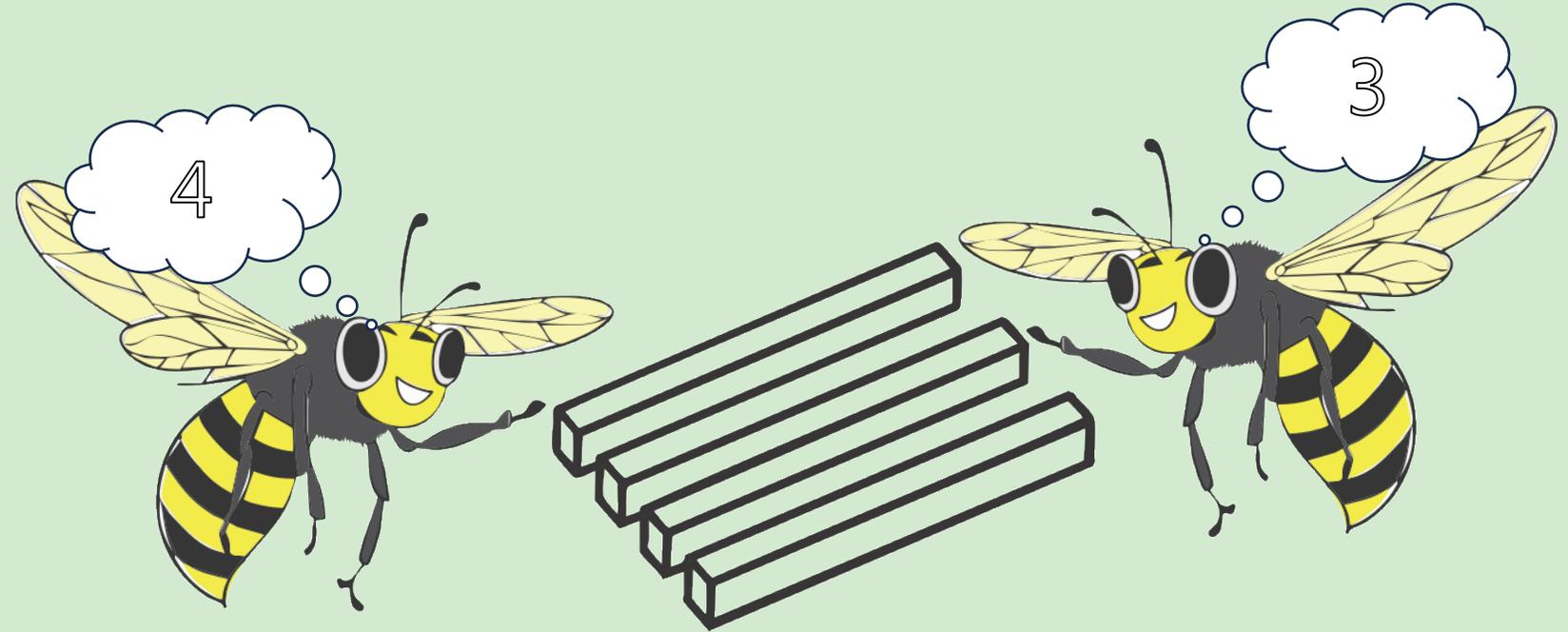
How Can I Help Insect Pollinators?

- Plant, plant species that have been in your area for a very long time
 - Tap into those ancient relationships
 - Tap into those reciprocal relationships
 - Tap into that familiarity



How you can I Help Pollinators?

**Reframe your
relationship**



Our interactions with the environment and beings within it has to do with our relationships and our perspectives of those beings in the environment

Community Partner 3: Birds



Community Partner 3: Fungi



Community Partner 5: Other





But that's a story for another day...

Ending off for Now

- Reflect on what your relationship is with many of these non-human beings, and ask yourself if this changes how you interact or treat these beings



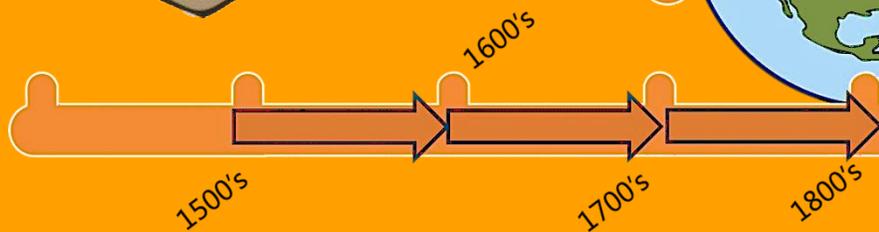
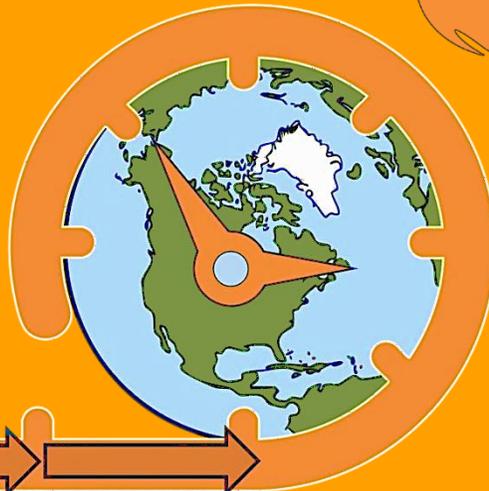
Wanting to Learn, Not Knowing Where to Begin

Terminology

Indian?

First Nation?

Native American?



The Whole Series, not Just one Book



Planting the Seeds of Understanding

No prior knowledge needed

- Will plant new seeds of understanding



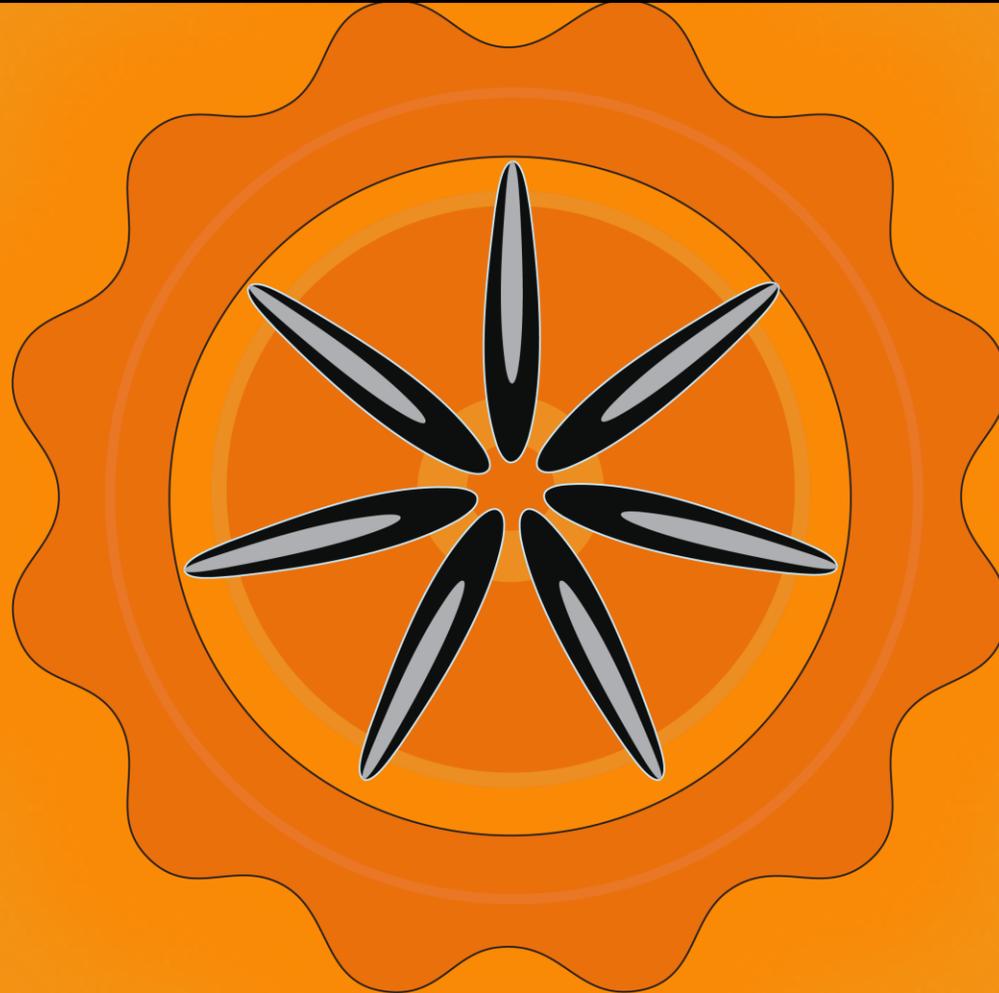
Will add to what you already may know

- Nurture seeds of understanding



- Designed for anyone and everyone wanting to learn more about Indigenous Peoples, perspectives, ways of knowing, and science

Seven Seeds Indigenous Foundations Course

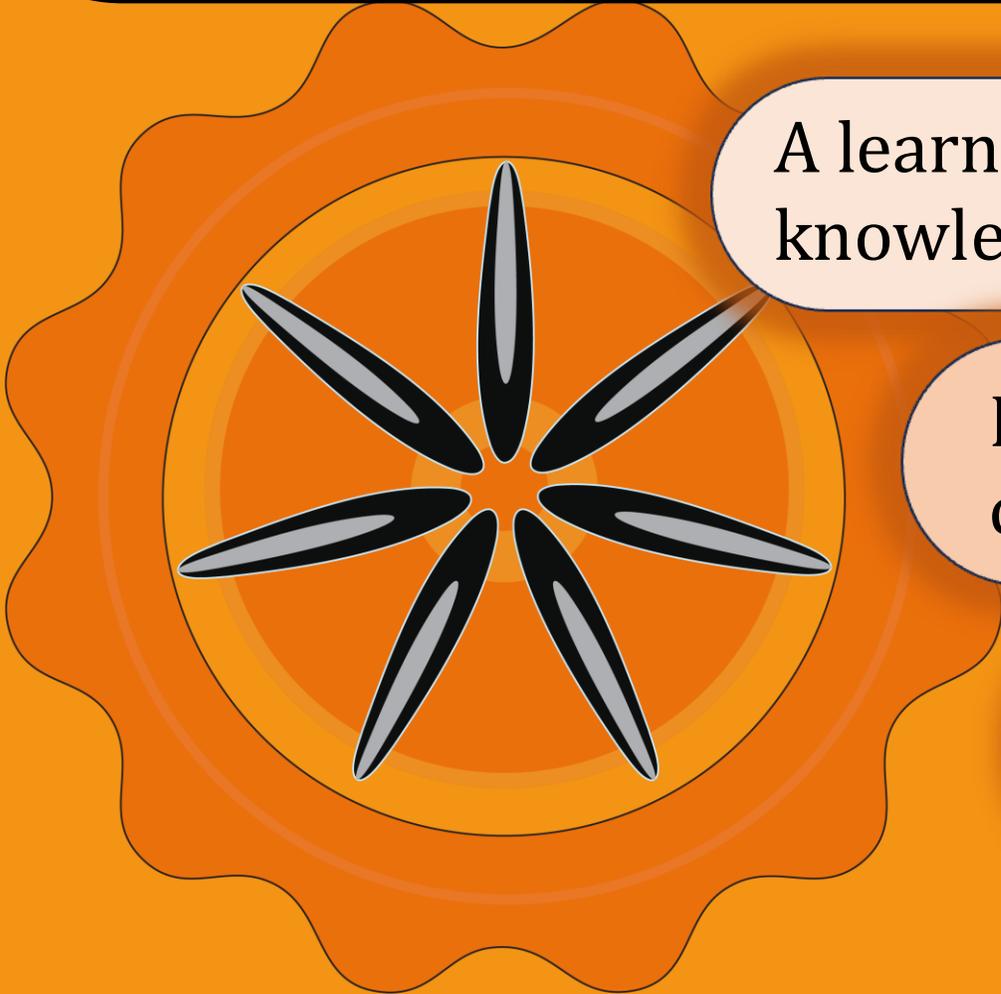


Seven Seeds Indigenous Foundations Course

A learning experience grounded in Indigenous knowledge and lived experience

Designed to break down complex topics into clear and accessible learning

Be informative and FUN!



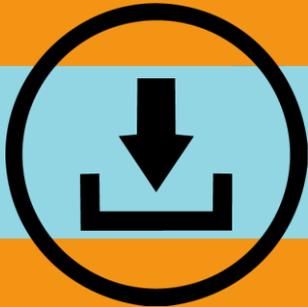


Course Format



100% online

Self-paced



Downloadable resources

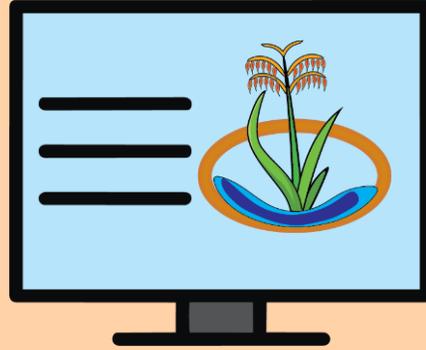
12-14 hours total course time



Sign Up Today!



- Open registration (start anytime)
- Simply go to the Manoomin Learning Website, and click to the 'Online Course' page



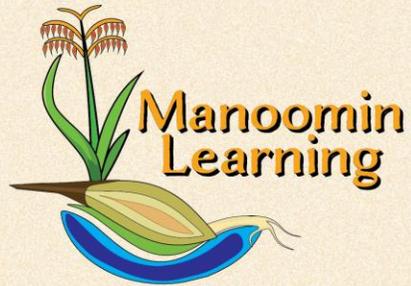
- On this page, you'll also find more about the course topics

SIGN UP



- To register click on the '**Sign Up**' button
- Signing up is simple and takes less than 5 minutes

Certificate of Completion



MANOOMIN LEARNING PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE FOLLOWING CERTIFICATE ACKNOWLEDGES THE WORK OF

CONGRATULATIONS ON COMPLETING THE

SEVEN SEEDS INDIGENOUS FOUNDATION COURSE



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- New blog posts on the Manoomin Learning website will be posted on LinkedIn first
- An Indigenous science book written by Nimkii Brad Howie will be announced on LinkedIn Spring 2026



Question and Discussion

